



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF SUPPLEMENTS TO THE  
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR PHASE I OF THE UNITED GOLDEN GATE POWER PROJECT  
Docket No. 00-AFC-05**

On October 18 and 24, 2000, El Paso Merchant Energy Company (El Paso) filed supplements to its Application for Certification (AFC) for Phase I of the United Golden Gate Power Project (UGGPP). El Paso is seeking approval to construct Phase I of UGGPP under the expedited permitting process of 25552 of the Public Resources Code. The section was enacted in September of this year and provides for a four-month certification process for simple-cycle thermal power plants and related facilities that can be put into service by August 1, 2001. On October 25, 2000, the Energy Commission found that the application was complete.

Phase I of UGGPP is a 51-megawatt<sup>1</sup> (MW) simple-cycle power plant that El Paso intends to operate for a maximum of three years as a peaking power plant. El Paso proposes locating the project at the San Francisco International Airport (SFIA) in San Mateo County. United Golden Gate Power Project LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of El Paso, will own and operate the UGGPP. The completed UGGPP will be a 570 MW combined cycle power plant at the same location. El Paso plans to submit an AFC for the full UGGPP in November 2000, which will be considered by the Energy Commission in a separate certification process.

The Energy Commission's siting process is open to the public and incorporates the input of the public as well as local, State and federal agencies. To facilitate public participation in our review process, the Energy Commission has distributed copies of the AFC and the supplements to libraries in South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae, San Francisco (Main), Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno and Eureka. Addresses of the libraries near the project site that have received the AFC and supplement are given below. El Paso's description of the proposed project; the possible impacts to public health, safety and environmental resources; proposed mitigation measures and the project's conformance with federal, State and local laws and standards are contained in the AFC and supplements.

### **Project Description**

Phase I of the UGGPP is a proposed 51 MW natural gas-fired, simple-cycle power generating facility. Pollution control on the turbine will include a Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) system to control the emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and an oxidation catalyst to control carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. Aqueous ammonia will be used as the reagent in the SCR system.

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<sup>1</sup> The original application was for certification at 48 MW. In a letter dated October 18, 2000, El Paso stated that review of the facility design calculations show that actual performance of the peaker would exceed 50 MW. El Paso is now requesting to be certified at 51 MW.

Deliveries will be made by tanker trucks and stored in a 4,000 gallon aboveground storage tank.

UGGPP Phase I will use existing connections at the adjacent United Cogeneration Inc. (UCI) cogeneration power plant for natural gas supply, transmission interconnection, and water supply. UGGPP Phase I will also make use of existing SFIA potable water and sanitary waste systems.

El Paso plans to operate Phase I of the UGGPP exclusively under the terms of a contract entered into with the California Independent System Operator (Cal ISO). UGGPP Phase I will supply electricity during times of peak summer and winter demand.

### **The Energy Commission's Process, Public Participation and Contacts**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines, natural gas pipelines and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

El Paso is seeking an expedited permitting decision under the terms of 25552 of the Public Resources Code. This section was enacted in September of this year and provides for a four-month certification process for simple-cycle thermal power plants and related facilities that can be put into service by August 1, 2001. The Energy Commission found that the UGGPP application was complete at the October 25 Business Meeting. By November 20, the Energy Commission must determine whether the application qualifies for an expedited decision pursuant to 25552. Phase I of UGGPP will qualify for an expedited decision only if the Energy Commission determines that the AFC includes descriptions of proposed conditions of certification that will assure that the project:

- will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment;
- will protect public health and safety;
- will result in compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, and standards;
- will be in service before August 1, 2000; and
- will cease to operate or be replaced with a combined cycle power plant within three years.

During the permitting process, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public as well as local, State and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about and provide input on the proposed

project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings, normally 14 days, but in no case later than 10 days, prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Mary Dyas, Project Secretary, at (916) 654-4219.

If you want information on how you can participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Ms. Roberta Mendonca, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 (toll free in California at (800) 822-6228), or by email at [pao@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:pao@energy.state.ca.us). If you require special accommodations to attend a workshop, please call Robert Sifuentes at (916) 654-5004, at least five days before a workshop. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Kevin Kennedy, Siting Project Manager, in the Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division, at (916) 654-4678, or by email at [kkennedy@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:kkennedy@energy.state.ca.us). The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at [www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/goldengate](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/goldengate).<sup>2</sup> News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Claudia Chandler, at (916) 654-4989.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that have requested to be placed on the mailing list and to property owners located adjacent to the project site. By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices when documents related to the project's evaluation are available for review. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Mary Dyas, Project Secretary, at (916) 654-4219.

### **Availability of the AFC Document**

Copies of the original AFC document and the supplement are available for public inspection at the following local libraries:

South San Francisco Public Library  
West Orange Branch  
840 West Orange Ave.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

South San Francisco Public Library  
Grand Avenue Branch  
306 Walnut Ave.  
South San Francisco, CA 94080

San Bruno Public Library  
701 Angus Avenue West  
San Bruno, CA 94066

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<sup>2</sup> The notice of receipt for the AFC included an incorrect web site address for this project.

Millbrae Community Library  
1 Library Avenue  
Millbrae, CA 94030

San Francisco Public Library — Main Library  
Civic Center  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the AFC and supplement are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, and Eureka. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies which would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. THERKELSEN, Deputy Director  
Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection

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